(d) On the directions of the Government of India, the monitoring committees have been set up in all the cotton growing States to assess the performance of Bt. Cotton. From the reports received from the State Governments, it was observed that the performance of Bt. Cotton was satisfactory and farmers have derived economic benefits due to reduction in insecticides applications.

Statement

Priorities for Agri-Biotechnology

1. Finalisation of National Biotech Policy by the Department of Biotechnology.
2. Rationalisation of approval process under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as suggested by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan's Task Force.
3. Release of Bt. Cotton varieties for North Zone.
4. Post-release monitoring to be started by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
5. Capacity building for post-release monitoring and training.
6. Public awareness campaign to be launched by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in association with State Agricultural Universities and other scientific organizations/institutes.
7. Finalising combined strategy for arresting spread of non-approved Bt. Cotton seeds.
8. Developing the testing facilities for Genetically Modified seeds.
9. To finalise Action Plan for the components relating to Agri-biotechnology in the National Biotech Policy.
10. Identification of crops and traits for use of application of biotechnology.

Loans and credits for deep sea fishing

1287. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to help the deep sea fishing industry;

(b) if so, the details of such plans for this financial year;

(c) whether any financial assistance in the form of loans will be given for the acquisition trawlers;

(d) if so, the details of such schemes;

(e) to what extent, Government tie up with any financial institutions to ensure that soft credit is given to the fishing sector; and

(f) the details of such schemes being planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy was finalised in October, 2004. As per the Policy, an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries has been constituted to consider proposals on Development of deep sea fishing. The number and type of resource specific fishing vessels that whould be permitted in the next five years have been decided and published for the information of the prospective entrepreneurs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Question does not arise.

Bulk drug pricing

1288. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revised the bulk drug prices in the country, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the drugs whose prices have been reduced and the details of drugs whose prices have been increased; and

(c) to whant extent the policy helps in bringing down the prices of drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Presently 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and